a control path and a reference path;

a control filter for stabilizing a laser beam, said control filter having a first periodicity, said control filter being located in said control path; and

a reference filter for determining an operating point cycle of said control filter, said reference filter having a second periodicity greater than said first periodicity, said reference filter being located in said reference path.

- 2. The laser system of claim 1, further comprising a device for determining the wavelength characteristics of light transmitted along said reference path and said control path.
- 3. The laser system of claim 2, further comprising a controller for comparing said wavelength characteristics.
- 4. The laser system of claim 3, further comprising a laser medium for generating said laser beam, and a servo system connected to said controller for controlling said laser medium.

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5. The system of claim 1, wherein said filters include an etalon.

Docket No.: A2550.0030

- 6. The system of claim 1, wherein said reference filter has a lower selectivity than said control filter.
- 7. A wavelength division multiplex communication system, comprising:

a control path and a reference path;

a control filter for stabilizing a laser beam, said control filter having a first periodicity, said control filter being located in said control path; and

a reference filter for determining an operating point cycle of said control filter, said reference filter having a second periodicity greater than said first periodicity, said reference filter being located in said reference path; and

an optical waveguide for transmitting said laser beam.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein said waveguide includes an optical fiber.

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- 9. The system of claim 8, further comprising a device for generating said laser beam, and wherein said control filter is located between said device and said reference filter.
 - 10. A laser system comprising:
 - a resonator for generating a laser beam;
- a control filter for stabilizing said laser beam, said control filter being located in a control path, and said control filter having a first periodicity; and

a reference filter for determining an operating point cycle of said control filter, said reference filter having a second periodicity greater than said first periodicity.

- 11. The system of claim 10, further comprising a wavelength monitor for generating an output, said monitor being located in said reference path.
- 12. The system of claim 11, further comprising a laser medium located in said resonator, and a controller for responding to said output of said monitor to control said laser medium.

Docket No.: A2550.0030

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13. The system of claim 11, further comprising a laser medium located in said resonator, and a servo system operatively connected to a controller for controlling said laser medium.

- 14. The system of claim 10, wherein said reference filter includes an etalon.
- 15. The system of claim 10, wherein said reference filter has a lower selectivity than said control filter.
- 16. The system of claim 10, further comprising a beam splitter for transmitting a portion of said laser beam along said control path.
- 17. The device of claim 16, further comprising a beam splitter for transmitting a portion of said laser beam along a reference path.
- 18. The device of claim 16, wherein said beam splitter is located between said resonator and said reference filter.

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19. A method of stabilizing the wavelength of a laser beam comprising the acts of:

transmitting light through a control filter and a reference filter, wherein said control filter has a first periodicity and said reference filter has a second periodicity greater than said first periodicity;

measuring the wavelength characteristics of light on a reference path associated with said reference filter;

determining an operating point cycle of said control filter based on said measured wavelength characteristics; and

controlling a laser medium within said operating point cycle.

- 20. The method of claim 19, wherein said reference filter has a lower selectivity than said control filter.
- 21. The method of claim 20, further comprising the act of transmitting said beam in a wavelength division multiplex communication system.